Yankee Dawg You Die Worksheet

1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

Vincent and Bradley are two Asian American actors in the San Joaquin Valley. Vincent is an older actor who was one of the first Asian Americans to have a successful career and is credited with helping Asian Americans break into the acting scene. However, in order to gain recognition, Vincent had to take stereotypical Asian roles that could be considered degrading (his motto is “never turn down a role”). Bradley is a younger actor who hopes to have the success that Vincent experienced, but criticizes Vincent for taking the stereotypical roles.

2. What is the *intrusion*?

The intrusion is during the scene when Bradley and Vincent act out the play *Tea Cakes and Moon Songs.* Vincent coaxes Bradley into raising his voice higher and higher until he is mimicking a stereotypical Asian accent. Once Bradley realizes what is going on, he is furious and calls Vincent a “Chinese steppin fetchit”.

3. What is the *unique factor*?

Both of the characters have the same goal: furthering Asian American involvement in the acting world. However, they have different ideas of how to go about their goal. Vincent believes that more roles will result in more opportunities for Asian Americans to succeed, no matter what the role is. Bradley agrees with this, but does not think that Asian Americans should take roles that reinforce their stereotypes.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?

Will Bradley take the role of the rock man in the sci fi film? How will the disagreement between Bradley and Vincent become resolved?

5. Provide an illustration of the *two kinds of exposition* that the play has in it.

Much of the information known by both characters and the audience is presented through the dialogue between Vincent and Bradley. For example, Bradley tells Vincent about the man that he stabbed

I did not find any exposition that was known by only a certain number of characters, but not by others.

6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

In my opinion, the most theatrical moment of the play is when Bradley informs Vincent that he stabbed the man.

7. List some of the *themes* of the play.

Sacrificing pride for success in the working world

Racism

Using acting as a vehicle for equality

Difference between young and elderly

8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

Both of the characters, Bradley and Vincent, both want the same thing: a successful career in acting that supports themselves financially and that boosts the Asian American’s efforts in gaining recognition in the acting world. However, the obstacle they face is finding a balance between getting recognition by accepting large amounts of shows and fulfilling Asian American stereotypical roles.

9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.

I found the Godzilla scene to be a bit symbolic of the forces that suppress Asian Americans in the USA. In the scene, Godzilla, “rips out the tongues of the people who taunt . . . gauges out the eyes of people who stare.” I found this to be representative of how Vincent and Bradley want to break away from the stereotypes that hold them back in their acting career.

10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.

There are no family relationships in this play.